

So good morning everybody. What I'm going to try and do today is to provide you with a brief introduction-- a relatively brief introduction to the biomolecular screening branch and Tox-21 and our combined efforts. If you recall from looking at the agenda we broke this series of presentations into three sessions. One session deals with Tox by our-- our Tox-21 partners the representatives from EPA, the NIH Chemical Genomics center and FDA. The next session deals with the NTP representatives on each of the four working groups that comprise the efforts within Tox-21. And then the third session which is tomorrow deals with some the specific activities that NTP is supporting as it relates to both the Biomolecular Screening Branch and Tox-21. So one of the things that I hope you appreciate is that it's really important to look at the totality of the picture and not to look at each individual component as it's --as if it was a separate entity, because it's the integration of all the different approaches that we're trying to do. That's what makes this for a strong activity. I'll also mention that this is probably a relatively unique kind of approach given that it actually combines the technologies and efforts and expertise of now four different government organizations working in what I'd almost call complete harmony. Occasionally we do have our differences of opinions because we also have slightly different mandates as we look forward but in general One of the things I hope you'll realize and appreciate is that we actually are a strong team for working together for a common goal and that is to understand and make sense out of being able to use invitro assays or assays involving other organisms to look at toxicology.